

REMARKS

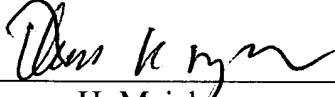
In the aforesaid final Office Action, claims 1-4 and 11-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Bazell et al. (U.S. Patent No. 3,884,242), and claims 6-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bazell et al. alone. Applicant notes with appreciation the indication that claims 10 and 15 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all limitations of the base and any intervening claims. Claims 1-4 and 6-15 are pending.

The Examiner indicated that claims 10 and 15 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all limitation of the base and any intervening claims. Applicants has amended claims 1 and 13 to include the limitations of allowable claim 10. Applicant has amended allowable claim 15 to include the limitations of base claim 1 as it existed when claim 15 was originally indicated by the Examiner as being allowable, at the time of the March 24, 2003 Office Action. Applicant has also made minor clarifying amendments to claims 1, 13 and 15. Namely, Applicant has amended claims 1 and 13 to clarify that the inner tubular member is disposed within at least a portion of the outer tubular member inflation lumen, and have amended claim 15 to clarify that the distally tapering outer surface of the tip tapers to a smaller outer diameter.

In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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